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PROVIDER BULLETIN

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THIS ISSUE

Coverage Decision: NC-stat[®] Nerve Conduction Testing System

TO:

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Purpose

A non-coverage decision has been made regarding the NC-stat[®] Nerve Conduction Testing System. The decision is effective on March 20, 2006 and pertains to State Fund and Self-Insured employers in all locations.

NC-stat[®] Nerve Conduction Testing System

What Are Nerve Conduction Studies?

Nerve Conduction Studies (NCSs) are performed to assess the functioning of nerves and to identify disease in the peripheral nervous system. Testing measures the speed, size and shape of a response transmitted through a nerve when prompted by an electrical stimulus. NCSs typically involve the application of surface electrodes to the skin, but may also require needle electrodes. To perform NCSs an electrical stimulus is applied via an electrode and the response is recorded via other electrodes placed over appropriate nerves or muscles. Test results may be useful in diagnosis of disease or developing a treatment plan.

NCSs are typically done by a physician or a trained technician under the supervision of a physician. Nerve conduction studies may be appropriate for assessing the integrity of nerves in the peripheral nervous system and are covered when performed with conventional testing systems.

What Is The NC-stat[®] System?

NC-stat[®] from NeuroMetrix[®] is a nerve conduction testing system designed to test nerves of the peripheral nervous system. NC-stat[®] assesses nerve function through use of proprietary, disposable sensors applied to the region in question (e.g. Wrist). Test data are collected via a handheld monitor and are then transmitted via phone or internet to a database service. Test results are compared to a population of previously tested subjects and the resulting report is sent back to the provider via email or fax.

Are Nerve Conduction Studies Covered When Performed With NC-stat®?

No. At this time NCSs performed with NC-stat® are non-covered. Scientific evidence does not show NC-stat® to be equivalent to conventional methods of nerve conduction testing. NC-stat® is considered investigational and experimental.

Are There Billing Codes Specific To NC-stat®?

No. Nerve conduction tests performed with NC-stat® do not have unique billing codes at this time. Past billing by providers using the NC-stat® device has been according to the manufacturer's recommended use of CPT codes 95900, 95903 and 95904. These codes apply to billing for motor nerve testing, motor nerve testing with F-Waves and sensory nerve testing. **Note: These codes are approved only for nerve conduction studies performed with traditional nerve conduction testing systems.**

In accordance with WAC 296-20-03002 **Treatment not authorized**, the department will not pay for treatment which is considered experimental in nature. The department may recoup payments made to a provider, plus interest, for NC-stat® nerve conduction tests paid inappropriately.

Where Is More Information Available?

For more information on coverage decisions, please see:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Treatment/SpecCovDec/default.asp>